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Design Public Hearing

Interstate 81 southbound Widening (Washington County)

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 4 - 6 p.m.

Holiday Inn Bristol, 3135 Linden Drive, Bristol, VA 24201

Makeup Date (if needed): October 28 via WebEx, log in details:
<https://www.virginiadot.org/I81SouthWideningWashCo>

Public Meeting

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) welcomes you to the design public meeting for the proposed widening of Interstate 81 southbound between exits 7 and 10 extension of the northbound I-81 merge lane in Washington County. The project begins at mile marker 9.7 and extends south to mile marker 8.1.

This design public meeting is held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give the department his or her comments and/or suggestions concerning the proposed project after reviewing the project information.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at the phone number listed on the back of the brochure.

Project Overview



Interstate 81 southbound between exits 7 and 10.

Anticipated Cost – \$31.1 million

Purpose – Improve traffic flow on Interstate 81

From – mile marker 9.7

To – mile marker 8.1

Total length – 1.6 miles

Anticipated Schedule – Right of way acquisition begins spring 2023, project advertised for construction bids spring 2024, and construction begins spring/summer 2024.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow on Interstate 81 southbound between exits 10 and 7 in Washington County by widening the interstate to three lanes. Additionally, the project includes extension of the northbound I-81 merge lane.

This portion of Interstate 81 southbound carries approximately 22,000 vehicles per day.

The majority of funding for the project is federal funds through the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program.

During construction, motorists should anticipate minimal delays as most of the work will occur along the median.

The design of this project is in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The construction will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. During construction every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

Environmental Review

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 23 CFR 771, and the 2017 Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration and VDOT, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) was prepared for this project and is available for review at tonight's meeting. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is available for review at tonight's meeting. All subsequent environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals will be adhered to during project construction.

Right of Way

As the design is developed, VDOT will determine what right of way and easements will be needed to accommodate the construction. Property owners will be informed of the exact location of the right of way and easements needed during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction. Information about right of way acquisition is discussed in VDOT's "Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants" brochure. Copies of the book are available at this meeting or online.

Get Involved

Comments can also be submitted in writing to bristolinfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Information must be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to

VDOT by **November 7, 2021** in order to be included in the citizen information meeting record.

Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Gene Holley

Project Manager

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Bristol, VA 24201

276-696-3255